

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ADP-00 SS-14 NSC-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-09 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-12 PRS-01 RSR-01

/087 W

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R 281537 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8720

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TELAVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 8696

DEPT PASS USINT CAIRO

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, FR, EG

SUBJ: FRANCO- EGYPTIAN RELATIONS

FRENCH PRESS REPORTED MARCH 28 THAT SENIOR EGYPTIAN OFFICIAL WOULD VISIT PARIS SOON AFTER INSTALLATION OF NEW FRENCH GOVERNMENT IN EARLY APRIL. QUAI DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR MIDDLE EAST AFFAIRS ROUILLON TOLD EMBOFF MARCH 27 THAT TO BEST OF HIS KNOWLEDGE, NO EGYPTIAN OFFICIAL EXPECTED IN PARIS IN NEAR FUTURE. DURING HAFIZ ISMAIL' S TOUR OF EUROPEAN CAPITALS IN FEBRUARY, FRENCH HAD INDICATED WILLINGNESS IN PRINCIPLE FOR VISIT TO PARIS, BUT EXPLAINED THAT ELECTION CAMPAIGN MADE IT EXTREMELY DIFFICULT FOR SENIOR FRENCH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS TO SEE HIM. UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES VISIT DEFERRED. ROUILLON SAID THAT GOF WOULD, OF COURSE, BE WILLING TO RECEIVE SENIOR EGYPTIAN OFFICIAL, BUT NO FORMAL INVITATION HAD BEEN EXTENDED TO ISMAIL OR ANYONE ELSE AND NO DATES SET. HE THOUGHT IT UNLIKELY THAT NAY VISIT WOULD TAKE PLACE IN VERY NEAR FUTURE, AT LEAST UNTIL NEW FRENCH GOVERNMENT HAD SETTLED IN. COMMENTING PERSONALLY, ROUILLON SAID IT WOULD BE PLEASANT TO HAVE ISMAIL COME, BUT
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VISIT WOULD NOT PARTICULARLY USEFUL, SINCE FRENCH HAVE ACCURATE
AND UP- TO- DATE READING OF EGYPTIAN POSITIONS FROM REGULAR CONTACTS
OF FRENCH AMBASSADOR IN CAIRO WITH SENIOR EGYPTIAN OFFICIALS.
IRWIN

NOTE OFFICIAL USE

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2. PROBLEMS MENTIONED ABOVE SERIOUSLY HAMPER NORMAL SHIPPING
OPERATIONS, BUT FACTOR MOST ADVERSELY AFFECTING FOREIGN FLAG
VESSELS
CALLING AT CHILEAN PORTS IS VERY HIGH OPERATING COSTS WHICH THEY FACE.
THIS RESULTS FROM THE E30 TO US\$1 RATE AT WHICH COMPANIES BUY
ESCUDOS TO PAY LOCAL EXPENSES. EXCHANGE RATE HAS BEEN IN EFFECT FOR
MORE THAN A YEAR. DURING THAT PERIOD LABOR COSTS HAVE INCREASED BY
AN ESTIMATED 100 PERCENT AND AN ADDITIONAL LARGE INCREASE IS
EXPECTED
SOON. ALSO, COSTS OF PROVISIONING VESSELS HAVE RISEN MARKEDLY.
CHILEAN
PORT OBSERVERS SAY THAT THEY ARE PRESENTLY MOST EXPENSIVE IN WORLD.
VALPARAISO SHIPPING AGENCY SOURCES AND NEWSPAPER ARTICLES PLACE
COST
OF HANDLING METRIC TON AT 40 CUBIC FEE OF CARGO AT MAJOR CHILEAN
PORTS AT BETWEEN \$25 AND \$35.

3. UNDER THESE CONDITIONS, REQUEST FOR HANDLING SURCHARGE SEEMS
JUSTIFIED. SITUATION WOULD CHANGE IF GOC AUTHORIZES SIZEABLE
INCREASE IN EXCHANGE RATE AFFECTING FOREIGN SHIPPERS.

4. IF FOREGOING INFO IS USED PUBLICLY IN ANY FASHION, WE
BELIEVE IT WOULD BE ADVISABLE NOT RPT NOT TO CITE EMBASSY
OR USG AS SOURCE. WE WISH AVOID PROVIDING GOC WITH
PRETEXT FOR FURTHER CHARGES OF " BLOCKADE" OR ECONOMIC
HARASSMENT.
DAVIS

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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